GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:621
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Teachers in IGNOU
Subbareddy Shri Yerram Venkata

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that in view of severe crunch of teachers in universities, the Ministry has increased the age of superannuation of "classroom teachers" from 62 to 65 years and the definition of "classroom teacher" in this regard;
(b) the details of Centrally funded higher education institutions in the country, Statewise;
(c) whether it is not a fact that Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) teachers mandate/duty is to prepare/edit curriculum and they are never involved in classroom teaching since the concept of IGNOU is distance learning;
(d) whether IGNOU Act permits Board of Management to take any decision even without amending the IGNOU Act and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if so, whether Ministry is aware that IGNOU has increased superannuation age from 62 to 65 on its own and if so, the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)
(a): In the light of the shortage in teaching positions in the centrally funded institutions in higher and technical education, the enhancement in the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 years for teaching positions only had been approved vide MHRD's letter No. 1-19/2006-U.II dated 23rd March, 2007.
(b): The State-wise details of the centrally funded higher education institutions in the country is given at Annexure.
(c): The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is a special type of university established under IGNOU Act, 1985 for the introduction and promotion of open university and distance education systems in the educational pattern of the country. The facts remain that no university can run its academic activities through face to face or distance mode without its core faculty i.e. Professors, Associate Professors & Assistant Professors. However, IGNOU being a distance mode university is associated & involved with all kinds of activities as are done in the face to face mode universities. Accordingly, the teachers in IGNOU are engaged in curriculum design; planning the instructional design for transacting the curriculum to its learners dispersed throughout the country; development of courses and programmes of study in multiple media such as print, audio, video e-content etc. and also tutoring and counseling learners through tutorials/counseling sessions organized using various media such web conferencing, radio, television, teleconferencing, online discussion forums, including face-to-face sessions etc; assessment and evaluation of learners through formative and summative evaluation methods throughout the year; besides being involved in policy making, liaising with apex bodies, academic administration.
(d): The Statute 7 of the university provides for the powers and functions of the Board of Management of the university as envisaged under the IGNOU Act, 1985.
(e): Based on the letter No. 1-19/2006-U.II dated 23.03.2007 of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) enhanced the age of superannuation of its teachers from 62 to 65 years. However, at that time the University could not get its Statutes amended as per the provisions of the IGNOU Act, 1985. In September, 2016, IGNOU decided to amend its Statutes to make the age of retirement of its teaching staff as 65 years and the communication on the same has since been received in MHRD.
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